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CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

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ANNUAL REPORTS  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
C.E. JAMISON, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.  
and of the  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
JOHN FINERON, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

1956





CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Medical Officer of Health  
C.E. Jamison, B.A., M.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector  
John Fineron, D.P.A., F.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.



CITY AND COUNTY OF LICHFIELD

ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
1956

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City and County of  
Lichfield.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again pleasure in submitting my annual report on the health of the City and the work of the Health Department.

The picture shown by the general and vital statistics is similar to that of previous years. The general statistics show the continued gradual expansion of the City. As regards the vital statistics, the birth rate shows a moderate increase, the death rate a very slight increase, while the infant mortality rate shows a very substantial decrease. If one compares the figures, after adjustment for age and sex distribution, with those of the country as a whole, they show up quite well, although it must be remembered that too much significance must not be attributed to the infant mortality rate for any one year because of the abnormal variation due to the very small number of children involved.

The incidence of the principal infectious diseases was low, particularly those of measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever. No cases were notified of either diphtheria or poliomyelitis. Cases of dysentery and food-poisoning were, however, rather more numerous than in recent years. Full details are given in the appropriate section of the report.

As regards tuberculosis, the position was, on the whole, improved, as no new cases or deaths were reported for the non-pulmonary form of the disease. The position in relation to the pulmonary form was rather less satisfactory, but better than that prevailing some years ago.

Only limited action was possible during the year in the clearance of houses unfit for human habitation, the period being one rather of consolidation of earlier progress and preparation for further action than of any spectacular immediate achievements. The outlook for the future, however, appears to be a hopeful one.

As mentioned by Mr. Oglesby in his section of the report, progress on the new sewage works was not as great during the year as had been hoped. It will be seen, however, that the position has now improved. It will also be realized that extensive plans are being made for development of sewerage work required in connection with the anticipated expansion of the City.

Considerable attention was given during the year to conditions existing in premises in which food was prepared for sale to the public, in order to ensure that such premises are brought up to the standard laid down in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

I again take this opportunity of thanking members and officers of the Council for their continued support, and the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector for their contributions to this report.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C.E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health

September, 1957.





## GENERAL STATISTICS

The area administered by this Council remained as in recent years, while the population and the number of inhabited houses showed the same small increases which have been a customary feature of recent statistics. In contrast, the rateable value and the sum represented by a penny rate show large increases, which have resulted from the revaluation of all properties, which came into effect during the year. The relevant figures were as follows:-

Area (in acres) ... ..	3,597
Estimated resident population according to Registrar General	11,050
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	3,196
Rateable Value ... ..	£140,263
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£550-0-0

## VITAL STATISTICS

The principal statistics are set out below in the same form as in previous years.

Live Births -	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	99	105	204
Illegitimate ... ..	8	3	11
	<u>107</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>215</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 Population - 19.5

Still Births -	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	1	4	5
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-	0
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

Still birth rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births - 22.7

Deaths -	Male	Female	Total
	55	80	135

Death rate per 1,000 Population - 12.2

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate ... ..	-	3	3
Illegitimate ... ..	-	1	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 14.7  
 Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births 90.9  
 All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (Infant Mortality Rate) 18.6

Deaths from Maternal Causes ... ..	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	0

In order to get these figures into perspective, it is necessary to compare them with the figures for earlier years. The following table, therefore, gives the figures for the 10 years prior to 1956.

Year	Estimated Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1946	9,082	21.0	11.7	44.7
1947	9,816	22.9	10.5	35.5
1948	10,170	20.5	10.9	38.4
1949	10,200	17.5	13.7	33.3
1950	10,400	16.2	10.5	65.0
1951	10,760	15.8	10.8	52.9
1952	10,870	15.7	10.1	11.6
1953	10,930	17.8	16.8	30.7
1954	10,930	20.1	11.8	45.4
1955	10,980	17.2	12.0	42.3
1956	11,050	19.5	12.2	18.6





As will be seen, the birth and death rates are broadly similar to previous years. The infant mortality rate is, because of the very small number of deaths from which the figures are calculated, of limited significance. With this qualification, it may be said that the figure for 1956 is a very satisfactory one.

As mentioned in earlier reports, it is necessary before comparing the vital statistics of the City with those of England and Wales as a whole to adjust the actual birth and death rates to allow for the difference of age and sex composition of the City population as compared with the population of the whole country. This adjustment has been made, in accordance with the comparability factors issued by the Registrar General, in the figures set out below:-


Area	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
England and Wales	15.7	11.7	23.8
City and County of Lichfield	18.7	11.8	18.6

It will be seen that the local figures compare very well indeed with the national ones.

#### CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shows the causes of death of residents of the City dying during 1956, figures for the preceding 2 years being given for comparison:-

	Total 1954	Total 1955	1956		
			Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	1	-	1
Other Tuberculosis	1	1	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	1	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3	4	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	4	4	1	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	2	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	1	-	1	1
Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	11	10	4	9	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	17	5	12	17
Coronary disease, angina	7	13	6	3	9
Hypertension with heart disease	6	2	1	3	4
Other heart disease	22	16	9	18	27
Other circulatory disease	10	11	4	4	8
Influenza	1	2	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	3	2	4	6
Bronchitis	5	11	3	2	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	2	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	1	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	2	5	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	21	1	13	14
Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	3	-	3
All other accidents	4	-	3	4	7
Suicide	1	-	1	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	1	1
	<u>129</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>135</u>



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Age groups of those dying are set out below:-

Age Group						Male	Female
0	-	1	...	...	...	-	4
1	-	5	...	...	...	2	1
5	-	15	...	...	...	1	1
15	-	25	...	...	...	1	1
25	-	45	...	...	...	4	2
45	-	65	...	...	...	10	11
65	and over...		...	...	...	38	62
Total Deaths -						55	80

It will be seen that, apart from the first year of life, death in childhood is now becoming a rare occurrence, while the vast majority of deaths occur at ages over 45 years, and particularly at ages over 65 years. Of those children dying during the first year of life, death was related in two cases to prematurity, and occurred in each within two weeks of birth. The remaining two infant deaths were related to acute broncho-pneumonia and intussusception respectively.

As in recent years, no death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion.

Of the accidents related to causes other than motor-vehicle traffic, two occurred in young adult males, due respectively to electricity burns and falling from the roof of a building, one in a male of 68 years, following fracture of ribs and three in persons over 80 years of age, following fracture of the femur. The latter deaths illustrate the relative frequency of this particular injury in the elderly, and the serious consequences which may follow it.

#### PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

This continues to be one of the most important and, at the same time, one of the most encouraging fields of public health activity.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE

Arrangements for diagnosis and treatment remain as stated in earlier reports. Figures of local incidence are not available. Taking the County of Staffordshire as a whole, however, it is known that the incidence is now declining steadily year by year, and there is every reason to believe that the local incidence is following the general trend.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Details of cases of these diseases notified are set out below, in the same form as in preceeding years:-

Nature of Case	Total 1953	Total 1954	Total 1955	Total 1956	1956			
					Male	Female	Age Distribution	
Measles	248	—	127	2	1	1	5-9..	2
Whooping Cough	86	—	2	7	3	4	under 1..	1
							3-4..	4
							5-9..	2
Pneumonia	15	1	4	1	1	—	45-64	1
Scarlet Fever	1	—	2	4	1	3	3 yrs	1
							5-9..	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	8	4	6	—	6	—	





Nature of Case	Total 1953	Total 1954	Total 1955	Total 1956	1956		
					Male	Female	Age Distribution
Dysentery	1	—	7	20	10	10	1-2.. .. 2 3-4.. .. 6 5-9.. .. 4 10-14 .. 2 15-24 .. 3 Over 25.. 3
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	3	2	1	Under 5.. 1 5-14 .. 1 15-44 .. 1
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	1	—	1	15-44 .. 1

Apart from the incidence of food-poisoning and dysentery, the picture can be regarded as a favourable one. This particularly applies to the small number of cases of measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever, and the entire absence of smallpox, typhoid fever and diphtheria. The reduced incidence of measles was, of course, due entirely to the fact that most of the children in the susceptible age-groups had been infected in the previous year. In the case of diphtheria, the freedom from disease can reasonably be attributed to the reasonably high degree of immunisation maintained in the City by the efforts of general medical practitioners and welfare clinic staff. It is still rather early to say whether the reduced prevalence of whooping cough was due to the same cause. The present low incidence of scarlet fever must be attributed to the reduced virulence of the organism, which has been a feature of the disease in the country as a whole during recent years. As regards typhoid fever and smallpox the absence of the disease from the community can be credited to the very careful isolation of infected persons throughout the country when known to be suffering from or, in the case of typhoid fever, carrying the disease. The present low level of smallpox vaccination, however, must be a cause of considerable concern if an undiagnosed case of the disease should cause a local outbreak, such as occurs in one part of the country or another from year to year.

As regards food-poisoning and dysentery, both diseases showed increases as compared with recent years. The cases of food-poisoning were sporadic ones in which, as is the usual experience, it was impossible to trace the cause of infection. Of the cases of dysentery, six cases occurred in a residential nursery, another six cases in two family outbreaks, while the remaining cases occurred in various adults and children living in different parts of the City. The increased prevalence of bacillary dysentery is, of course, part of a much larger incidence throughout the country. The difficulty in controlling the disease is greatly increased by its relatively mild nature, as this makes it difficult to insist on drastic restriction of activities of infected individuals. Nevertheless, the disease can be very serious in a small number of cases. Action was usually limited to exclusion of infected children from infant schools, where the disease spreads more rapidly and more widely, and of adults from work which involved handling of food likely to be contaminated.

#### TUBERCULOSIS

The particulars of new cases of tuberculosis are set out below in the same form as in previous years:—





Age Periods	New Cases			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Under 10 years	—	—	—	—
10 to 20 years	—	—	—	—
20 to 30 years	1	—	—	—
30 to 40 years	1	—	—	—
40 to 50 years	2	—	—	—
50 and over	—	—	—	—
Total Cases	4	—	—	—

It will be seen that 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, as compared with 3 cases in the previous year, but that no cases of the non-pulmonary disease occurred. Comparison with earlier years can be seen from the following table, giving particulars of new cases of and deaths from the disease during the last decade:—

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1946	5	1	3	1	2	1	—	—
1947	4	2	1	1	2	1	1	—
1948	6	7	2	—	2	3	—	—
1949	9	5	2	—	1	3	—	—
1950	3	3	3	3	3	—	—	—
1951	1	3	3	1	—	1	1	—
1952	5	1	—	4	2	1	—	—
1953	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—
1954	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	1
1955	3	4	1	—	—	—	1	—
1956	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Taking the period as a whole, the striking features are the marked reduction in non-pulmonary infection and the greatly reduced mortality from both the pulmonary and non-pulmonary forms of the disease. There is good reason to hope that both of these trends will continue in future years. As regards pulmonary infection, the position is not quite so encouraging, as there is little evidence as yet of any reduction in the number of new cases. It seems probable, however, that more rigorous supervision of notified cases and their contacts, earlier admission to hospital, and more efficient treatment of infected patients will in the fairly near future reduce the danger of infecting susceptible contacts of pulmonary infection. Arrangements have also been made to extend the use of B.C.G. vaccination, a measure which is now known to increase individual resistance to tuberculosis infection, from known susceptible contacts to all school-children in their fourteenth year. This





extension, which has already been introduced in many parts of the country, should increase resistance markedly at a time of marked susceptibility and, owing to changing environment as children leave school and go to work, maximum likelihood of coming into close contact with the infection.

As overcrowding in the home can play an important part in the spread of tuberculosis infection, arrangements were continued as in previous years whereby recommendations relating to rehousing are made to the Housing Committee in appropriate cases. The co-operation of the Committee in this matter is much appreciated both by the persons concerned and by those responsible for their medical care.

### HOUSING

Progress continued along lines similar to those of previous years, although the number of houses and flats actually completed by the Council during the year, 17, was smaller than in the previous year. During the same period, 25 houses were completed under private building contracts.

The waiting-list for council houses and flats showed little change during the year, the waiting list at the end of the year containing 490 names.

Details were given in my last report of the programme of clearance of unfit houses which the Council had undertaken to carry out during the five-year period beginning last year. No statutory action was taken during the year in connection with this programme. Steady progress was, however, made in dealing with houses which had been the subject of either statutory or informal action in earlier years. In particular, progress has been made in clearing the older property at Dovehouse Fields, where the houses have been voluntarily demolished by the owners, following rehousing of the tenants by the Council. Demolition of properties scheduled for clearance before the war has been proceeded with where practicable, but one house in Greenhill, 11 in Stowe Street and 19 in Sandford Street have still to be dealt with. It is hoped, however, to make progress in the demolition of these within the fairly near future. Progress in clearance of the Gresley Row houses, referred to in previous reports, should also be possible.

As regards improvement grants for improvement of amenities, as provided for in the Housing Act, 1949, 10 applications were received during the year in respect of 13 houses. One application was refused, 3 withdrawn, while 6 applications were granted. Grants totalling £862 were made in respect of improvements to the value of £1724.

Housing of the aged continues to be unsatisfactory, as circumstances have so far prevented the Council from undertaking the work to which it has agreed. It is to be hoped that better progress will be possible within the next year or two.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was necessary during the year to enforce removal of any person to hostel or hospital in order to secure necessary care and attention, the difficulty being rather to secure beds for those persons anxious to have them. Home circumstances of persons on the waiting list for beds in the chronic sick wards were investigated, as in previous years, in order to assist in the allocation of beds available to those in the greatest need of them.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

These remained, in general, as in earlier years.





### LABORATORY FACILITIES

The following specimens were examined at the County Chemical and Public Health Laboratories:-

SPECIMEN					Normal	Abnormal	Total
SWABS:-							
	Throat	...	...		37	16	53
	Nose	...	...		Nil	Nil	Nil
SPUTA	...	...	...	...	30	7	37
WATER	...	...	...	...	22	Nil	22
FAECES	...	...	...	...	422	30	452
VAGINAL	...	...	...	...	Nil	Nil	Nil
URINE	...	...	...	...	3	Nil	3
PLEURAL FLUID	...	...	...	...	2	Nil	2
PUS	...	...	...	...	1	Nil	1

### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

As mentioned in an earlier paragraph, the shortage of beds for the chronic sick continued. It has, in fact, tended to get worse during recent years, particularly for female patients, and inability to secure admission is frequently a cause of much distress, particularly in those cases where relatives are not available to look after the patient. Beds appeared to be available for the reduced numbers of patients suffering from infectious disease who required them. This was particularly so in the case of tuberculosis, where the reduced demand for beds has led to their being readily available for those patients requiring them. Maternity beds were possibly not quite so easily available as in previous years. There appeared no reason to believe, however, that any patients were denied beds who really required them on either medical or social grounds. No details are available as to the situation in relation to categories of patients other than those mentioned above.

### PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The position remains as outlined in previous reports.

### WATER SUPPLY

Here also the position remains as stated in last year's report.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

I am again indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information relating to foods and drugs sampled in the City.

Nature of Food	Number of Samples Taken
Milk	
Pasteurised	14
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	7
Pasteurised Channel Islands	4
Sterilised	8



Nature of Food	Number of Samples Taken
<p>General Foods and Drugs</p> <p>Aspirin tablets, brawn, butter, cake mixture, calamine lotion, cheese, chicklettes, chitterlings, dripping, flour, glycerine, glycerine and lemon, halibut liver oil, halibut liver capsules, ice-cream, jam, lard, malt with cod liver oil, malt extract, margarine, essence of rennet, sausages, sugar, swiss roll, steak and kidney pie, sardines, sausage rolls, tea, tomato ketchup, ulster fry, vapour ointment, xmas pudding.</p>	48

All samples were found to be genuine except one pork sausage, which contained 65 parts per million excess preservative. The manufacturer agreed to reduce the amount of preservative used.

The following table shows the results obtained in samples of milk tested for cleanliness, efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilisation and presence or absence of tubercle bacilli:—

Grade of Milk	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness)		Phosphatase (Efficient Pasteurisa- tion)		Turbidity (Efficient Sterilisa- tion)		Biological (Tuber- culosis)	
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Neg.	Pos.
Tuberculin Tested	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
T.T. Pasteurised	31	2	34	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised	38	4	41	—	—	—	2	—
Sterilised	—	—	—	—	27	—	—	—
Totals	70	6	75	—	27	—	3	—

It will be observed that the types of milk examined differ from previous years in that they do not include Accredited and Undesignated milks. The omission is, of course, due to the fact that the Accredited designation has now ceased to exist, while undesignated milk cannot now be legally sold in the City. The elimination of these milks should prove a substantial contribution to public health.

Of those milks sampled, it will be noted that pasteurisation and sterilisation had been carried out efficiently in all cases, while tubercle bacilli were not found in any sample examined for them. The results of tests carried out for cleanliness were less satisfactory. Action in this matter lies within the province of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.

#### FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following tables show the results of inspections carried out under the Factories Act 1937:—





# 1.- Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health

No. of Factories on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
92	80	3	Nil

## 2. Defects Found and Action Taken

Particulars of Defect	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Defects Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	1	Nil
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-
No certificate as to means of escape in case of fire	-	-	-	-
Emission of fumes	-	-	-	-
Total	6	6	1	Nil

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor  
Mr. D. Oglesby, M.I. Mun.E.,

### 1. Sewerage

#### (a) Foul Sewerage

During the last year only minor items of maintenance were carried out on foul sewers. Nuisance caused by smells emanating from road gullies was only reported on one occasion and that in Dam Street where the water level in the gullies had fallen below the seal. The effect of the Gas Works ceasing to produce gas at Lichfield is having beneficial results. All sewerage schemes which are likely to rank for Grant under the New Towns Act have been prepared in outline, and details of these have been forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Included in these are, of course, the Trent Valley Drainage Scheme and the scheme for dealing with the increased load on the trunk sewer. In addition, the effect of Overspill on the sewers has been examined in the areas in which development is to take place.





## (b) Surface Water Sewerage

The approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was given during the year and arrangements were made to invite tenders for the relaying of the St. John Street surface water sewer by means of a 30" diameter sewer so that work could commence in accordance with the starting date given, which was 1st May, 1957. Gurborough Brook was cleaned from the point at which the previous year's straightening and cleaning finished to St. Chad's Road. A scheme for the surface water sewerage of the whole of the Trent Valley area, including the proposed industrial site was prepared. This takes into account proposed development within the next 10 years and also possible development in the succeeding 10 years. It is hoped that this work will be commenced in November, 1957.

## 2. Sewage Disposal Works

Progress on this contract has not been as good as had been expected, and meetings have taken place between the Health Sub-Committee of the City Council and the Contractors with a view to expediting this. In spite of the very wet conditions experienced during the Winter, progress since then has improved, and it seems likely that part of the Works will be in operation about the middle of September.

### PUBLIC BATHS

(Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor)

No breakdowns have occurred this year in the Filtration Plant at the Baths and samples analysed by the County Laboratory have been satisfactory. On the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. C.E. Jamison, the coir matting has been removed and extra duck-boards have been provided so that the Attendant can alternate them to enable the set out of use to be treated with Chlorox and placed in the sun and air, to eliminate any possibility of Athletes' Foot, etc. The dado to the walls of the Bath was painted at the beginning of the season with Inertol Enamel, and this has produced a much more hygienic wall surface. Attendances have been slightly higher than in previous years. The City Council has again endeavoured to obtain the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's approval to the scheme of improvements, but again has been unsuccessful.

### HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

(Prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor)

In spite of some difficulty with Drivers, this service has been maintained efficiently throughout the year and the Tip has been treated periodically with Tip Dressing. Paper and Scrap Metal have been salvaged as far as possible, and this part of the service has been slightly more than self-supporting.





# REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

## General Inspection of District

During the year 162 complaints from occupiers of dwelling-houses and other premises were investigated. Most of these referred to structural defects arising from continued neglect of property maintenance. Work in this connection is still difficult, because of the relatively low rents of many of the houses and the high cost of building work. This circumstance has been aggravated by the volume of new work now in progress, as most builders prefer new construction to work of repairs. A feature which will shortly require special attention in the City is the renewal of dustbins, many of which are worn-out and no longer serviceable. Here again the high cost of replacements makes progress slow, since a new bin costs about six times the price of a similar kind of article at pre-war rates. In cases where it is known that property will be dealt with under the Clearance Sections of the Housing Acts, the requirements of notices are restricted to essential repairs directed to ensure the maintenance of reasonable standards. Of the 96 intimations served, 87 were complied with, while most of those outstanding were in regard to the replacement of worn-out dustbins. Under present conditions much of my time has to be spent on re-inspections, which means that improvements in standards of hygiene are often delayed. In some cases repeated visits have to be made before even minor repairs are effected. Sometimes builders undertake repair work but delay carrying it out, usually on account of shortage of skilled workers.

## HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

In the course of inspections, 25 cases were referred to the Housing Management Committee for special consideration. The condition of sub-standard houses is constantly under review, though progress in replacing these is slow due to the rate at which new houses can be provided. In view of the contemplated increase in the population within the next few years, many of the older houses will have to be kept serviceable. Demolition would have been better policy under more normal conditions. Shortage of suitable accommodation has constrained many would-be tenants to purchase old houses. From the administrative standpoint this results in improved standards, since owner/occupiers usually take greater pride in the property. They are, of course, encouraged by the hope of getting better houses when available. It seems certain that the time is not far distant when all houses will be owned either by local authorities or the occupiers themselves. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the older houses in the City will not lend themselves to improvements such as those covered by Improvement Grants. More often than not it is impracticable to provide the amenities now regarded as essential to comply with modern standards. In view of the high cost of new buildings, however, it is obviously desirable that reconditioning should be encouraged where it is likely to result in adding to the housing accommodation without departure from By-law requirements.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are 5 caravan sites licensed in the City. Where the water-carriage system is not available chemical closets are provided by the occupiers. The problems arising in connection with this work are not so serious as in some areas. Applications are not frequent and usually concern odd caravans occupied by people unable at the time to secure housing accommodation. The principle of moveable dwellings is not viewed with favour by the Health Committee in a district of this kind, and is accepted as a temporary expedient rather than as a satisfactory form of housing. It seems possible that when houses become more readily available, few if any caravans will be used in such places as Lichfield.





## SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year 21 observations were made on industrial installations in the City. In 4 cases intimations were sent to the owners of the premises concerned regarding excessive emission of smoke. In one instance, the proprietors gave an assurance that they had definite plans under consideration for the conversion of the plant to electricity which would mean that eventually no steam would be raised by coal. In another case an additional mechanical stoker of modern design was installed and, whilst this does not furnish a complete solution, there has been a marked improvement as a result. The problem of atmospheric pollution in the district will probably become more difficult with the introduction of further industries; but it is hoped that when new installations are established, modern means of smoke prevention will be employed. As in other branches of public health work, constant vigilance is necessary to maintain freedom from atmospheric pollution, though in the case of Lichfield it is more a question of dealing with nuisance to householders caused by installations in close proximity to dwelling-houses.

## MEAT INSPECTION

During the year the carcasses and organs of 224 bovines, 621 pigs and 1,036 sheep were inspected. One bovine carcass and all organs was condemned for generalised tuberculosis. Two sheep carcasses and organs were unfit - one because of emaciation and the other following suffocation in transit. Twelve bovine livers were surrendered on inspection, the chief reason for condemnation being cirrhosis caused by the liver fluke. Other organs condemned included 4 pigs' livers for cirrhosis, 5 pigs' livers for inflammatory conditions, 8 pigs' heads for localised tuberculosis and two sheep livers for liver flukes. The standard of meat supplied in the City continues to be very satisfactory. The case of generalised tuberculosis was an isolated one and occurred in a young beast which was well nourished and would normally have yielded good meat. With regard to the meat shops, it is pleasing to report that several improvements have been effected by the owners in connection with the protection of meat when displayed for sale.

## FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Good progress was made under these regulations, most of the structural improvements being effected following verbal intimations to the owners concerned. Among other things were the provision of 4 new water closets, 10 new wash-basins and 7 new sinks, while hot water was provided in 14 premises. The majority of traders in the City were co-operative and anxious to comply with the regulations. There is, however, room for further improvements. Experience shows that satisfactory standards can be maintained only by constant supervision. This applies, not only to the condition of food premises, but in relation to the handling of food. Difficulties have arisen in some cases because of restricted accommodation making it almost impracticable to provide the amenities which the regulations require. Unfortunately there is not the interest shown by the public which this important feature of communal hygiene deserves.

## RODENT CONTROL

Although treatment of premises in the centre of the City has to be done at fairly frequent intervals, detailed inspections and extensive enquiries which were made disclosed that there was nothing in the nature of a major infestation. The migratory habits of rats are more in evidence at particular times of the year. It is known, for instance, that during autumn rats tend to seek harbourage for the colder months. No doubt this accounts for the presence of rats which are sometimes seen round the City shops during night time. Six trade premises affected by rats were treated at the request of the owners, while four treatments were carried out





at similar premises where mice had been found in large numbers. In each case treatment was done on the lines advised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and was said to have been completely effective. Minor infestations of rats were dealt with at thirty five dwelling-houses - this service being carried out free of charge by the City Council. It is pleasing to report that several of the occupiers of premises involved expressed appreciation of the results produced by this treatment. A chief cause of trouble is still the type of outbuilding used principally in gardens for domestic poultry keeping. If owners of these appliances would keep roosting pens raised from the ground and see that surroundings are clear of food material, rats would not be encouraged. In some cases many burrowings found indicated that regular visits were made by rats from neighbouring premises. Two Intimations were served on occupiers regarding accumulations of rubbish which were found to be harbouring rats.

### UN SOUND FOOD

Apart from the unfit meat previously referred to the following were destroyed after being found unsound, unwholesome and unfit for human consumption. In this connection there is ready co-operation on the part of occupiers of premises concerned.

#### A

73 tins Apricots  
1 jar Apricot Jam  
3 tins Apricot Conserve  
2 tins Apple Sauce  
1 tin Apple Conserve  
2 tins Apple Puree

#### B

13 tins Beans in Tomato  
1 tin Beans  
12 tins Baked Beans  
2 tins Scotch Broth  
19 tins Corned Beef  
1 tin Beef  
6 lbs. Bacon  
3 lbs. Butter

#### C

1 tin Crab  
4 jars Red Cabbage  
7 tins Cherries  
158½ lbs. Cheese  
5 packets Cheese  
1 packet Cheese Spread  
1 packet Crispbread  
1 tin Custard Powder  
3 tins Chicken Soup  
1 tin Cream

#### F

56 Fish Cakes  
1 Carton Fish Cakes  
24 tins Heinz Foods  
2 tins Fruit Cocktail  
2 tins Fruit Salad

#### G

1 tin Gravy Browning  
1 tin Gooseberries  
1 tin Grapefruit

#### H

1 tin Shoulder Ham  
1 tin Herrings

#### K

3 tins Kit-e-Kat

#### L

14 lbs. Liquorice Comfits  
7 lbs. Lard  
3 tins Lobster

#### M

41 tins Milk  
9 tins Luncheon Meat  
1 tin Mushroom Soup

#### O

2 tins Ox Tongue  
15 tins Oranges  
1 tin Orange Juice  
2 jars Onions

#### P

53 tins Peas  
29 tins Peaches  
24 tins Pears  
27 tins Pineapple  
3 tins Plums  
2 tins Crushed Pineapple  
2 tins Pines  
2 tins Plum Prunes  
6 lbs. Prunes  
3 tins Pilchards  
4 tins Pork Lunch Meat  
2 tins Pork Brawn  
3 tins Stuffed Pork Roll





R

3 tins Raspberries  
1 tin Rhubarb

S

5 tins Spaghetti  
4 tins Strawberries  
1 tin Sardines  
3 tins Stewed Steak  
5 tins Soup  
6 tins Cream Soup  
1 jar Salad Cream  
1 jar Sandwich Spread  
102 lbs. 10 ozs. Sausages

T

243 tins Tomatoes  
20 lbs. Tomatoes  
3 tins Tomato Soup  
1 tin Turtle Soup

V

1 tin Vegetable Salad  
1 tin Vegetable Soup

